

Tri-County Area School District

Plainfield, Wisconsin
Minutes from Regular School Board Meeting
Held February 27, 2018

#117 Call to Order

Mark Bacon-President called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the District Office conference room.

#118 Roll Call of Members/Declaration of Quorum

School board members present were Mark Bacon, Jeff Hopkins, Jim Knutson, Cindy Baumgartner and Wayne Cummings. Jim Cesar, Peggy Buckholt and Jerry Knutson were absent. Susan (Sue) Lederer our ninth board member passed away on February 11, 2018 due to complications with the disease called Amyloidosis. Due to the policy that states we have 60 days to fill the position and the school board election is on April 3, they will discuss that this evening.

#119 The "Pledge of Allegiance" was recited

#120 Adoption of the Agenda

Wayne Cummings made a motion to approve the agenda; Jeff Hopkins seconded and carried on a voice vote to adopt the agenda.

#121 Revenue/Expense Report

Anthony Marinack, District Administrator, stated that 44.52% \$4,003,811.84 of the anticipated revenue has been received to date and 49.01% \$4,671,450.46 of this year's budget had been spent to date.

#122 Bills/Receipts Approved

Jim Knutson made a motion, Wayne Cummings seconded, and carried on a voice vote to approve checks 976898 through 977059 and wire transfers #201700069 through # 201700080 in the amount of \$946,362.85 and receipt of revenue for \$235,685.05 January 24, 2018 through February 27, 2018.

#123 Public Forum

Brian Beggs, 9897 Taft Rd Plainfield, WI 54966, addressed the Board concerning what procedures the school currently has in place in the event of an active shooter in the school. Tony responded and talked about the crisis plan meetings that are held every year and the lockdown drills that are practiced. Information is given to teachers and staff and we have had ALICE Training with Lafe Hendrickson from the Waushara County Sheriff's Department. There are different approaches that can be taken but we have built our plans around strong statistics showing that the first line of defense is to get behind a locked door. Once that step has been achieved there are things you can do

within the classroom to remain safe. Every room has been equipped with a safety bucket which holds a variety of contents from first aid kits and instructions to Wasp Spray that can be used as a weapon against an attacker. We also have designated shelters off campus where students would be relocated to once it is safe to do so. This drill has been practiced with students. Portage County and Waushara County came in over the summer and performed some drills within the building to become familiar with everything. The Fire Department and Police Department both have very detailed floor plans of the school building and exits are numbered and clearly labeled. Staff are also working on the mental health piece and trying to build relationships with students and become more aware of potential issues and get students necessary help before anything would escalate to a more serious situation. All doors are locked during the school day so everyone has to enter at the front and be buzzed into one of the offices. All classrooms are also equipped with a magnetic plate on the door so that they can be quickly locked simply by pulling the plate off and closing the door. We also have a police liaison at the school and down the road it would be nice to have one here five days a week. We have outside Psychologists come in to work with students and families. Brian commented that he believes that mental health programs are the #1 defense against these types of situations. He thought the school should take advantage of any outside resources that it can and request help from resources within the community or from parents. Mark Bacon added that no plan will be 100% foolproof but believes teachers and staff have things in place and do what they can. Going forward it would be good to have more parental awareness for the plans and where their children would go offsite once it is safe to get them there. He thanked Brian for his insight and concern.

#124 Consent Agenda Items Approved

Wayne Cummings made a motion, seconded by Jim Knutson and carried on a voice vote, to approve the following consent agenda items:

- Minutes from Regular Board, Meeting Held January 23, 2018.
- Minutes from Open/Closed Executive Session January 23, 2018.
- Accept donation from Fox Oil for the softball camp for \$220.00.
- Accept resignation from Christopher Makaryk for the assistant football coach.

#125 MS Softball program

Jamie Helmrick presented for the 2nd year on maintaining a MS Softball program that would be funded by the fundraising efforts of the entire softball program. This year they would need to extend the program down to the 6th grade based on the lower number of girls showing interest in playing in the 7th grade class which is a small class. The program would then be offered to all girls in 6th-8th grades with a letter being sent home to all the parents. All the other programs we currently compete with are also 6th-8th grade programs. Jamie handed out a Pros and Cons list to the Board on the program and stated that we currently have a volunteer coach but that it would be nice in the future if we could turn that in to a paid position. She asked if she had to keep coming back every year for Board approval and the Board members thought if she was not asking for district dollars to cover the program then she could continue the program every year going forward.

Jeff Hopkins made a motion; Jim Knutson seconded and carried on a voice vote, to approve the M. S. Softball program starting spring of 2018.

#126 AP Music Theory Class EXH-1718-18

Tawnia Mitchell presented to the Board information regarding adding an AP Music Theory class starting next school year. She has been looking into this for a couple of years and has student interest. There are several gifted and talented musicians in the school and they should be given the chance to take an AP class and possibly earn college credits. No other school in our conference currently offers this program as well as SPASH or Pacelli. Students taking this intense program will learn more about music than what can be taught in the normal band and choir courses. They have identified 22 possible students from 7-11th grade that may be interested in the course. Tawnia expressed that she has worked very hard during her time here at Tri-County to improve the choir program. Her students participate in singing at games and in other community events and she has added more fieldtrips and opportunities for students to be exposed to music. This would set us apart from other schools and add to our current list of AP courses offered. Mark Bacon asked how many students they would need to hold the class. She said it would be preferred to have at least two because there are partnered activities but it could be done with only one. Nick said it is not uncommon to have an AP class with 5 or less students and have had some in the past with only one. The largest number in one class was 14. He also said they would need to know as soon as possible if the class is going to be added as he is working on the 2018-2019 schedules and would like to open registration to students in March sometime. He said AP courses are great opportunities for kids and Tawnia has built pride in the choir program in the 5 years she has been here. School Board members Wayne Cummings, Jim Knutson and Cindy Baumgartner said they all support the music programs but do have budget concerns. Since we had already made cuts this current school year and without knowing where the budget would be for next school year they were concerned about approving the program due to the additional cost involved. Wayne was concerned about the 6th grade band program and thought we should get that back on track before adding more. Jeff Hopkins asked Matt Miles to address the board with his thoughts on that. Matt claimed responsibility for the 6th grade band being where it was as he had a different approach to the program than what the school was used to in previous years. He is a new teacher and he wanted students to be able to try all instruments before making a decision on one and this took extra time. He is already looking at ways to change this starting this spring with giving the 5th grade students exposure to the instruments with help from the high school students. This will get the ball rolling with the 5th grade students and have them finalize choices early next year in 6th grade to start lessons earlier in the year. It was also mentioned that all three music staff members meet weekly to discuss their programs and to see how they can work together to make the programs more successful. Adding additional time to Tawnia's schedule could potentially help the band as she can help with lessons on certain instruments. Tony brought up that the 6th grade band was a separate issue that should be addressed at another time if needed. He mentioned the possibility of adding a band program to summer school if we had enough students participating.

Jeff Hopkins made a motion; Cindy Baumgartner seconded and carried on a voice vote, to approve the AP Music Theory class starting in the fall of the 2018-2019 school year. Vote was 3 yes to 2 no with Wayne Cummings and Jim Knutson voting no.

#127 Natural Resources

Nick Marti presented information on our current Natural Resource course offered and about submitting the necessary paperwork to have the class certified to count as a science credit and not just an elective credit. We have had this approved in the past under Amie Stillman but approval is based on the teacher. Zeth Engel has gone through the process to be able to submit the paperwork showing we are meeting the science standards that are needed for this designation. Jim Knutson made a motion; Wayne Cummings seconded and carried on a voice vote, to approve the Natural Resource (.5) Credit to qualify as a science credit starting with the 2018-2019 school year.

#128 CESA 5 Contract EXH-1718-19

Tony presented the estimated 2018-2019 CESA 5 contract to the board. There is a slight increase from last year but item ET01 on the contract in the amount of \$3700 he is having CESA remove this item as we do quite a bit of our own training here for staff members. The contract amount could change in the fall or anytime during the year based on the Special Ed students in the district and their needs. Wayne Cummings made a motion; Jeff Hopkins seconded and carried on a voice vote, to approve the CESA 5 contract for the 2018-2019 school year.

#129 Yearly Cash Flow EXH-1718-20

Materials were presented showing the current and previous year cash flow for the District. Tony highlighted the listing of the district's main monthly expenses and the State Aid Payment Schedule showing month by month revenue dollars. Looking at certain months of the year revenues vs expenditures you can see why it is important to carry a fund balance.

#130 School Board Position EXH-1718-21

Mark Bacon stated that he had spoken with the WASB regarding the open school board position left by the passing of Sue Lederer. The open position is in the same area as the only contested position and the upcoming April election falls within the 60 day parameter that is the time frame for filling this position, according to our board policy #133. He suggested based on advice from the WASB and to simplify the process and save time and money that we take advantage of the two willing candidates in that region and appoint the person with the second highest votes during the election to the 1 year position that is now open. This position would then be up for reelection next spring. The other option would be to post applications, perform interviews, make a selection and appoint that position within the 60 day timeline. Wayne Cummings made a motion; Cindy Baumgartner seconded and carried on a voice vote to approve procedures for filling the open school board position by approving the appointment of the person receiving the second highest number of legal votes in the upcoming April 3rd election for the 1 year vacancy left by Sue Lederer.

#131 Correspondence

Thank you card to the board from Julie and Dave Senft

#132 Reports

Student Representative Danny Kaehn started his report talking about the Mock Interview day held in the HS gym on January 11th. This was the first time it was offered to all grades and it was a great experience and very insightful on the interview process. It should be continued to be offered in years to come. There was also a Practical Law Trial and wanted to thank Judge Dutcher for coming to help. This was very educational. This year Winterfest week and FFA week were held at two different times. Winterfest week had a Winter Olympics theme and the FFA week was highlighted with dress up days, trivia, games and challenges. The strategic planning meetings have been productive and have shown that parents, students, teachers, community members all seem to share the same general vision for the school even if they have different strategies or approaches. The Solo Ensemble date may be changed from the current date of March 10th to a possible date of April 7th. The NHS trip is scheduled for March 15th and 16th in Chicago. They will go to various museums and the Medieval Times show. Girls basketball is doing well being conference and regional champs again this year. They play in sectionals this week and hope they can make it to State. The boy's basketball team lost in their first regional game to Port Edwards 64-56. Brandon Peckham made it to sectionals in wrestling. Quiz Bowl finished their season 2-4 for both the A and B teams and ended strong with a win against Almond. Math League is currently in second place with only a 6 point difference. If they can win again this year it will be the 20th year as champs. In Advanced Math Topics we have the top three spots with Payton LaPorte, Danny Kaehn and Kenny Becher. Forensics has been rescheduled several times and is now set for March 6th. The MS Play will be April 6th & 7th and is titled Medium Rare. The featured class are the seniors. They are making final college decisions or plans on what they will do after graduation and are filling out tons of scholarships. Jim Knutson reported on his trip to the State School Board Convention which had a theme of "Tell your Story". He passed around and handed out information he picked up from the different sessions he attended and said he was glad he went. Tony passed around a breakdown of the current January student count. We are up a few students and the FTE is up because of the numbers in Kindergarten, but 10 of those are Open Enrolled out. The numbers dropped from September to January but that is always normal for our District due to having some migrant students in the fall. We need to watch the open enrollment because we have 35 more students going out than coming in and that makes a big difference in dollars. The last strategic planning meeting will be on Wednesday February 28th. We had 41 members of a well- rounded group of staff, students, board members and community members. We have done our mission statement, vision and goals. We have focused on building relationships, career planning and technology, suicide knowledge and prevention and homework accountability. There have been strong conversations and we will be designing action plans and setting up action teams. Nick Marti reported on their current focus of the ACT statewide testing day of February 27th. This is the 4th year it has been mandated to take it during school. They only had 1 student absent and they will have a makeup day on March 20th. After testing was done students had a late lunch and movie in the auditorium. The ACT Workkeys test which is more on real world skills is set for February 28th. The girl's basketball team will play

the first sectional game on March 1st in Marshfield. If they win that game they will play on Saturday March 3rd in Appleton. If they can win there they will be headed to state. If the team doesn't make the state tournament, Brooke Hopkins will be attending the State Tournament as a participant in the Three Point Challenge. Track practice starts on March 5th, Softball on March 12th and Baseball on March 19th. Shawn Jepson reported on Child Development Days held on February 8th to screen 3 year olds. They can also rescreen in the fall if necessary. They had 21 kids scheduled but a few didn't show up. On February 21st we had a 3 screens presentation for K-12. The Parent/Teacher Conferences on February 22nd had 90% attendance and the PTA had a successful book fair the same day. March 19th is the date set for the State Forward exam. SAGE requires that she give a mid-year report to maintain funding and she handed out a sheet showing the number of K-3rd students testing as proficient in Reading and Math. Test scores are based on PALS assessment and the STAR assessment. Students who are not proficient receive RTI intervention for an extra 60-90 minutes per week in the subject they need extra help in. They also have programs such as IXL that can also be used to help the higher performing students advance further.

#133 Future Agenda Items

No items were mentioned.

#134 Announcements

Board-Evaluations were handed out and need to be returned by March 16, 2018 to Wendy Hetzel.

#135 Set Meeting Date

March Board meeting which is scheduled for March 27, 2018 during Spring Break will not be changed at this time.

#136 Adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Recorded by: Amy Hopkins

Submitted by:

Wendy Hetzel
Deputy Clerk